

RECORD TRANSACTION FAILS TO GO THROUGH

Ban Johnson's Attempt to Place Mack and Collins in New York Fails Through at Last Moment.

GETS JUMP ON OTHER FELLOWS

Big League Manager Said to Have Instructed Players to Condition at Different Places, and Offers Bonus to Those Reporting in Form.

NEW YORK, December 19.—Connie Mack is fooling Philadelphia fans in trying to make them believe he was not being considered for an executive job with the New York Americans. After all he has done toward wrecking his once great Athletics by getting rid of Plank, Bender and Collins, particularly the latter, the reality is that he has to make some pretense toward love for his home town and regard for the fans therein unless he wants his name next season. Therefore his efforts to conceal the fact that he ever had his eyes turned toward another city.

It was known all along by those on the inside that Mack's name figured prominently in the scheme for the building up of the Yankees, and the other day a direct statement to that fact was obtained from Ban Johnson. Yet Mack, the mysterious, pours out sentiment as an attempt to smooth the hurt feelings of quaker baseball followers.

Parrell Not Anxious to Stick.

As has been pointed out in the column off and on during the last three months, the Yankees, despite denials, have been on the market since the close of the last playing season. Parrell, who did not own more than 35 per cent of the stock, but controlled a majority of it, was not anxious to stick in the game as he appeared to do to those on the outside. Neither was the "Bill" of New York owned 42 per cent. Parrell had, of course, insisted on a respectable price for his holdings.

Three sets of bidders attempted to get the New York Yankees, one of course, was the combination of Colonel Jacob Ruppert and Captain T. L. Huxton, about whose deal the market is now. The second combine was that of McGill and Smith, owners of the Indianapolis club of the American Association. The third bidder was a New York business man, who is a fan from the ground up, but for certain reasons does not wish his name used since his offer was turned down.

Record Transaction Blocked. The standing surprise, up to some time ago—the deal which would have surpassed all baseball precedent—did not go through as planned, and is no longer possible, but the hour is ripe for revealing its nature.

Ban Johnson had been in the hands of Connie Mack and Eddie Collins to the New York Yankees, either as manager and field captain, or as president and manager. Mack was to sell out all his interests in Philadelphia in order to do this. The idea was to help Mack, but various little difficulties arose, which obstructed the transaction. However, it served as a link—brought out the willingness of Eddie Collins to leave Philadelphia—and led to the Chicago White Sox following.

Getting the Jump. The rule adopted by the National League last week forbidding a club to go into spring training camp as a body before March 1, will be an easy one to evade, and it has been learned already that at least one team is planning to get around it. The basic idea of the rule is that of a club taking for granted that the teams will be able to get in good playing shape with the new year and a half allowed for the conditioning work.

There is one manager, though, who believes in a longer period of practice before getting things working smoothly. He has an idea that if his players can get a head start of two or three weeks on the rest, they will be in the season in better shape, and therefore jump out ahead to a long lead that will help in the season. So he has planned to instruct his players to make individual visits to separate health resorts which he will arrange, ordering them to go through a definite program of training work and get themselves in shape for actual baseball when the team gets together in camp. He intends to offer small bonuses to the men if they report to him on March 1 in good condition.

Governor Tener probably has not heard of this yet, but it would be time well spent if he should get in touch with each National League manager and find out his plans along this line, with a possibility of uncovering this prospective early starter.

Two More Permanent Camps. Joe McGraw, manager of the Giants, set a precedent five years ago, when he made arrangements for a permanent training camp for his club at Marlinton, Tenn. Several other teams have followed the example since then, and now two more are about to fall into line—the Brooklyn Dodgers and the St. Louis Browns. President Hedges, of the Browns, has been visiting in Texas lately, and has looked over a number of places with the idea of finding a spot suitable for a permanent camp. He reports in the place that looks best to him, it is said, and he may make announcement of its selection soon.

Charles H. Ebbets, president of the Brooklyn, is in the south right now looking over the field. Daytona, Fla., is the particular place that strikes his fancy, though there are a number of other towns under consideration. It is about 2 to 4 that Ebbets will decide upon Daytona, and that Wilbert Robinson, manager of his club, will follow him in the next few weeks to arrange

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HUSKY SQUAD OF GRIDIRON WARRIORS



Cluster Springs Academy Football Team 1914

Those in the picture, from left to right, standing: Landrum, Copenhagen, K. Redd (captain), Feild, Lacy, Dance, Hubbard and Copenhagen; sitting: Robinson, Postlewaite, Hopkins, Gilliland, Harrell, Majette and Graham (coach).

for perfecting the ball park and other facilities.

First Dry Meeting Ever Known.

Annual meetings of the National League are generally interesting affairs. The one here last week, however, was dry. And yet it was interesting, too. How can it be dry and interesting at the same time? Oh, that's just a little matter of ambiguity in the meaning of the word dry. It's a great change in the habits of a bunch of men who have big business in their hands. Every manager was in a condition to attend to his duties, as also were all the American and International Leagues, who attended the series of convocations. There, of course, was a certain amount of hilarity among those who had nothing to do but enjoy the pleasure of being present at the gathering, but without exception, every man was O. K. at times when he was called upon to attend to any serious business. All of which is cause for congratulation to the Governor and organized baseball in general, particularly in view of the large number of celebration dinners being given during the week.

Jack Elliott Bears Promise.

A new white hope looms up as a son of Jack Elliott, the Minnesota lumberjack, recommended by Mike Gilbey, the St. Paul wizard. If Mike only spend some of his spare time teaching this big rascal the fine points of the game, Jess Willard will not occupy the undisputed leadership of the white heavyweight division for many years.

Elliott, a towering six-foot-three husky with about 270 pounds of wiry sinew distributed over his prodigious frame, seems something like a larger edition of Bob Fitzsimmons. He is only twenty years old, and may gain in weight and strength, as well as in cleverness. His local debut the other day was against a big old-time named Wood, who seemed well conditioned, in view of what the lumber chopper did to him. Elliott, in comparison, appeared as speedy as light guard for a comparatively novice, and his blows carried great force apparently. The best part of his work, however, was his accurate boxing, in placing blows—a point where nearly all present crop of white hopes are sadly lacking. Elliott knew where he was trying to dispatch his first and generally hit the target, with the weight of his shoulders behind it. The second round was so hard that it would have acted like a hot iron if it had been the first blow struck.

Referees Can Spoil Fights.

A referee can make or unmake a good fight in many instances. Several cases of bouts in New York recently illustrated the point. Some of the men who officiate in good condition on the boxers providing constant action, while others will let them act in a way with a lot of holding and clinching for which there is no excuse. As a general thing, the merit of a fight depends—in inverse ratio—upon the amount of clinching. The more

clinching there is, the worse the fight, and the less clinching, the better the fight.

There are two distinct types of referees operating around here at present. The rules governing boxing are New York State specific clean breaks and no hitting in the breakaways. The two types of referees have entirely different methods of achieving this end. One class will order the fighters apart, and the other will pry them apart by more or less sheer force. It is a question as to which method succeeds best, and the other will pry them apart by simply ordering the men apart, while the other generally jumps in head first, and with a sort of broad stroke swinging motion, tries to force the men to opposite sides of the ring.

WAKE FOREST FOOTBALL PLAYERS RECEIVE LETTER

Mahreen Study Athletes Honored by Faculty With Swaggers.

WAKE FOREST, December 19.—The faculty athletic committee have awarded sixteen letters to members of the 1914 Wake Forest football squad. Those who received the letter are: Captain George E. Moore, S. J. Blackman, J. A. Abernathy, H. E. Olive, L. Stallings, J. P. Dixon, Charles Parker, Will Harris, William W. Hedding, M. B. B. Trest, R. S. Whittemore, W. Lee, Hugh Beam, C. W. Corrick and B. M. Watkins. The committee also have sixteen swaggers to the members of the team, all but the last two receiving this additional recognition. The awards were made at this morning's chapel exercises by Coach Smith.

Only four of the sixteen members of the squad will receive letters this spring. They are: Billings, Abernathy, Corrick and Watkins. It is almost assured, however, that

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quicker than any other boy of his weight division. He can round within the last few years. It was only five weeks ago when he fought his first bout here as a professional performer. He outclassed his rival so badly that he was already a popular figure when he boxed his next prize. That was a repeat of the first one, and he was put on for his third local fray as a semi-finalist. Now he is of the main bout category, and it will not be long before he is matched with some of the leaders of the division.

There is one man in particular that can be mentioned who goes to every heavyweight bout of any magnitude around New York, but can't be persuaded to go to a lightweight fight for love or money. He says there is something impressive about the big fellows, the idea of all that power.

"I couldn't enjoy the best lightweight or featherweight scrap ever held," he says, "because I would know all the time that any one of fifty heavyweights I have seen could knock out the little fellows in a punch if they ever landed on them."

That's all very logical, but would the big fellows ever land on the little ones? Fred Welsh could tell you. He has fought with ten rounds with any of the white heavyweights of the day without receiving a single square of doing it a bit, if not a quite lot, but it is considerable argument just the same.

Harry Gattie's Rapid Rise.

Harry Gattie, the lanky young New Jersey lightweight, has arisen to the grade of participant in final bouts

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